



LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN

CITY OF COLUMBUS & FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

We need to hear from you

Franklin County, the City of Columbus and Local Matters are creating a food action plan to identify the barriers and opportunities within the current local food system. **Your responses will shape a local food action plan to:**

- **increase the role of food in economic development**
- **increase local food production**
- **improve efficiencies and reduce barriers in food distribution and processing**
- **expand access to healthy food**

The survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete and your response will be kept confidential. Please read each question carefully.

Your Current Farming Operation - The following questions relate to your farming operation and the crops that your are currently producing.

1. What is the zip code where your business is located? If you have multiple locations for your business, please list the zip code where your corporate headquarters is located.

2. How many years has your farm been in business?
 - <1 year
 - 1-5 years
 - 6-10 years
 - 11-20 years
 - 21-50 years
 - 51+ years



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3. How many years have you been farming?

- <1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21-50 years
- 51+ years

4. How many acres do you farm?

- 1-49 acres
- 50-99 acres
- 100-499 acres
- 500 or more acres

5. Do you have a plan in place for your farm business to continue when you retire or leave the industry?

- I have a written plan in place for my farm business to continue.
- I want my farm business to continue but I don't have a written plan in place
- I plan to sell my land for other uses when I retire or leave the industry.
- I don't have a plan for my farm business when I retire or leave the industry.

6. Do you farm in any of the following counties? (Select all that apply)

- Delaware
- Fairfield
- Franklin
- Licking
- Madison
- Pickaway
- Union



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7. Do you grow or raise any of the following? (Select all that apply)

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Wheat
- Other grains
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Dairy
- Hogs
- Eggs
- Cattle and calves
- Greenhouse/Nursery
- Wheat
- Broilers
- Turkeys
- Other (Please describe)

8. Which of the following production methods do you use? (Select all that apply)

- Free range/pastured
- Biodynamic
- Organic (certified)
- Organic (non-certified)
- Conventional
- Grass-fed
- Other (Please explain)



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9. How often are you able to produce enough to meet the demand for your product?
- All of the time
 - Most of the time
 - Some of the time
 - Never



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10. Please indicate how much of a barrier (**1=not a barrier, 5=major barrier**) each of the following issues are to expanding your farming operation for crops you **currently** produce and/or raise.

	Not a Barrier				Major Barrier
Access to Loans	1	2	3	4	5
Equipment	1	2	3	4	5
Labor	1	2	3	4	5
Land	1	2	3	4	5
Access to Markets	1	2	3	4	5
Demand	1	2	3	4	5
Insurance	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation	1	2	3	4	5
Storage	1	2	3	4	5
Processing	1	2	3	4	5
Regulations (Local, State, or Federal)	1	2	3	4	5
Buyer's Requirements	1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
Other	1	2	3	4	5

If Other, please specify:



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11. Which of these factors do you consider to be the **biggest barrier** to expanding your farming operation for crops you currently produce?

- Access to Loans
- Equipment
- Labor
- Land
- Access to Markets
- Demand
- Insurance
- Transportation
- Storage
- Processing
- Regulations (local, state, federal)
- Buyer's requirements
- Knowledge
- Other (Please specify)

12. How do you currently sell your product(s)? (Select all that apply)

- Direct to Consumers (farmers market, farm stand, CSA)
- Through wholesalers, distributors, or grain elevator
- Direct to restaurant or retail
- As part of a co-op
- At wholesale markets
- Food hub
- Auction
- On-line
- Other (please explain)



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13. Which of these methods is your **primary** method for selling your product?(Select all that apply)

- Direct to Consumers (farmers market, farm stand, CSA)
- Through wholesalers, distributors, or grain elevator
- Direct to restaurant or retail
- As part of a co-op
- At wholesale markets
- Food hub
- Auction
- On-line
- Other (please specify):

14. How would you like to sell your product/s? (Select all that apply)

- Direct to Consumers (farmers market, farm stand, CSA)
- Through wholesalers, distributors, or grain elevator
- Direct to restaurant or retail
- As part of a co-op
- At wholesale markets
- Food hub
- Auction
- On-line
- Other (please specify):



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15. Which of these methods **would you like to use as your primary** method for selling your product?

- Direct to Consumers (farmers market, farm stand, CSA)
- Through wholesalers, distributors, or grain elevator
- Direct to restaurant or retail
- As part of a co-op
- At wholesale markets
- Food hub
- Auction
- On-line
- Other

16. On average, how far do you travel to sell your product?

- 0-10 miles
- 11-20 miles
- 21-50 miles
- >50 miles

17. How often do you sell your product?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Seasonally
- Other (Please describe)

18. What percentage of your product(s) do you sell to buyers in Central Ohio (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Union counties)?

- 100%
- 75%
- 50%
- 25%
- 10%
- 0%
- I don't know



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19. Please indicate how much of a barrier (1=not a barrier, 5=major barrier) each of the following issues are from selling more to buyers in Central Ohio (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Union counties)?

	Not a Barrier				Major Barrier
Don't know where to sell	1	2	3	4	5
Selling locally is not important to me	1	2	3	4	5
Demand too inconsistent	1	2	3	4	5
Prices not good enough	1	2	3	4	5
Regulations	1	2	3	4	5
Processing facilities for my product(s) are/is not available locally	1	2	3	4	5
Don't know what they want to buy	1	2	3	4	5
They don't want to buy enough	1	2	3	4	5
Other	1	2	3	4	5

If Other, please specify:



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20. Please indicate how much each of these resources would (1=Not at all, 5= Very much) help you in selling more of your products to buyers in Central Ohio (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union counties)?

	Not at all				Very Much
Education about marketing my product	1	2	3	4	5
Resources for assessing market demand	1	2	3	4	5
Establishing contacts/building relationships with local retailers and customers	1	2	3	4	5
Participating in a locally based marketing brand	1	2	3	4	5
Being part of a local producer co-operative	1	2	3	4	5
Other	1	2	3	4	5

If Other, please specify:



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Expanding your farming operation - The following question(s) relate to new crops that you would consider growing or raising.

21. Would you consider growing or raising any of the following crops? (Select all that apply)

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Wheat
- Other grains
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Dairy
- Hogs
- Eggs
- Cattle and calves
- Greenhouse/Nursery
- Wheat
- Broilers
- Turkeys
- I am not interested in growing or raising new crops (if select this – skip to question 19)
- Other (Please specify)



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22. Please indicate how much of a barrier (1=not a barrier, 5=major barrier) each of the following issues would be to growing or raising these new animals or crops?

	Not a Barrier				Major Barrier
Access to Loans	1	2	3	4	5
Specialized Equipment	1	2	3	4	5
Labor	1	2	3	4	5
Land	1	2	3	4	5
Access to Markets	1	2	3	4	5
Demand	1	2	3	4	5
Insurance	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation	1	2	3	4	5
Storage	1	2	3	4	5
Processing	1	2	3	4	5
Regulations (Local, State, or Federal)	1	2	3	4	5
Buyers Requirements	1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
Other	1	2	3	4	5

If Other, please specify



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Food and Farm Waste – The following questions refer to how you dispose of excess product.

23. Do you have excess product (left in fields or processed but unsold)?

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Never (please skip to the end of the survey and provide your email address if you would like to receive updates on the food action plan.)

24. How do you currently dispose of excess product?

- Send it to the landfill
- Compost onsite
- Send off-site for composting
- Donate to charitable organizations that feed people
- Send/use for animal feed
- Other (Please specify)

25. What is your primary method for disposing of excess product?

- Send it to the landfill
- Compost onsite
- Send off-site for composting
- Donate to charitable organizations that feed people
- Send/use for animal feed
- Other (Please specify)



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26. How would you like to dispose of excess product?

- Send it to the landfill
- Compost onsite
- Send off-site for composting
- Donate to charitable organizations that feed people
- Send/use for animal feed
- Other (Please Specify)

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses will help shape a plan to increase local food production and grow the local food economy. If you would like to receive updates on the plan, please provide your email address below. We won't share your email address with anyone else.